

Amendments to the specification:

On page 1, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

The present invention relates to devices and methods for reducing the contamination of a sensor, in particular a hot film air-mass meter in a motor vehicle, ~~according to the combination of features in the main claim.~~

On page 1, line 5, please amend the heading as follows:

Background ~~Information~~ of the Invention

On page 2, line 11, please amend the heading as follows:

Advantages Summary of the Invention

On page 2, please amend the paragraph contained in lines 12-16 as follow:

The device according to the present invention ~~with the features of the main claim,~~ and the associated method according to the invention have the advantage that a protective function for a sensor is retained that reliably ensures that the sensor is not contaminated or destroyed under unfavorable conditions.

This advantage is attained by the fact that the sensor is deactivated when unfavorable operating conditions are detected.

On page 2, please delete the paragraph contained in lines 17-18.

On page 5, line 7, please amend the heading as follows:

Brief Description of the Drawings ~~Drawing~~

On page 5, line 18, please amend the heading as follows:

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments